

Appl. No. : 09/308,032
Filed : August 13, 1999

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the April 6, 2004 Office Action. Claims 3, 4, and 11 remain as previously presented. Please reconsider the claims in view of the following remarks.

Response to Rejection of Claims 3, 4, and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the April 6, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 3, 4, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,311,320 to Hashimoto ("Hashimoto"), particularly citing Fig. 20A of Hashimoto.

Applicants submit that claim 3 as presently on file is not anticipated by Fig. 20A of Hashimoto. In particular, the feature of claim 3 stating there being "a further switch (X_j) between said column amplifying element (A_j) and the common output amplifier (D)" cannot be found in Fig. 20A of Hashimoto. The switch T1 in Fig. 20A of Hashimoto is located between the amplifier A1 and the power supply. This switch has a function to connect the amplifier to the power supply, as also stated on column 24, line 8 of Hashimoto:

The transistors T1, Qe1, and Qf1 are turned on in response to the pulse $\phi 1$. The voltage Vcc is applied to the amplifier A1, and the amplifier A1 is rendered operative (other amplifiers A2 to An are rendered inoperative).

In the present patent application, the switch between the column amplifying element and the common output amplifier is not for rendering the amplifying element operative; it is to switch the amplifying element off from the bus. This has the advantage that the output capacitance of non-operative amplifying elements is switched off from the bus. This is different from Hashimoto where the output capacitance of the amplifiers is always connected to the bus.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable over Hashimoto. Claims 4 and 11, being dependent on claim 3, are thus considered patentable as well.

Summary

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 3, 4, and 11 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request such action.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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Respectfully submitted,

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